

7 February 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: National Security Council Staff Discussion of Special
Coordination Committee/Counterintelligence Launching

1. The following is a summary of an informal 90-minute discussion convened on 6 February 1978 by Mr. Samuel Hoskinson, Director of Intelligence, National Security Council Staff, to brainstorm the launching of the Special Coordination Committee/Counterintelligence (SCC/CI). I attended at Mr. Hoskinson's invitation. Others present were Mr. Robert Gates, Staff Assistant to Zbigniew Brzezinski, and Mr. Frederick D. Baron, Special Assistant to the Attorney General.
2. Although Mr. Brzezinski had indicated a desire for an early convening of the SCC/CI to get it launched, Mr. Gates will recommend to him today (7 February) that Mr. Brzezinski send a memo to the community foreign counterintelligence (FCI) principals requesting summary comments on each agency's FCI program--objectives, modus operandi, resources involved; on the hostile threat as perceived by that agency; on the departmental and national FCI problems experienced by the agency; on a suggested prioritized listing of issues to be addressed by the SCC/CI; and on recommendations on how the SCC/CI should organize itself to conduct its work. A relatively short (four- to eight-week) deadline will be proposed. The responses would be synthesized and used by the NSC Staff to provide a basis for a first meeting of the SCC/CI principals, at which agreements on structure and of initial tasks/objectives would be sought.
3. It is expected that the SCC/CI will work primarily through working groups and/or task forces dealing with particular problems, issues, or tasks. Mr. Hoskinson is leaning toward a principal working group composed of FCI principals under the SCC/CI top policymakers, with the issue/problem/task-oriented groups existing only as long as needed for a particular project. These ad hoc groups would be created by and report to the principal working group. (Note: This is similar in concept to my original national structure proposal, floated by the DCI to the FCI community, for a top-level policy committee with a subordinate National Foreign Counterintelligence Board.)
4. The initial SCC/CI-sponsored major effort after its organizing meeting is expected to be the preparation of a national net FCI assessment, with the additional requirement that the assessment make action

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recommendations with respect to deficiencies/weaknesses found. The need for a multidisciplinary approach to the assessment was expressed. (Mr. Hoskinson agreed to attend a 22 February 1978 multidisciplinary CI briefing being sponsored by the Resource Management Staff for top FBI FCI officials.) Mr. Hoskinson opined that although the net assessment would be assigned to a working group, the responsibility of putting it together would be assigned to a specific organization (undesigned) as executive agent. ✓

5. The consensus of the meeting was that action on other SCC/CI tasks set forth in E.O. 12036 should be delayed to allow the net assessment to educate the principals, provide a common initial data base, and enable better staffing of particular tasks or problems. Thus development of FCI standards and doctrine, and determination of FCI activities for which standards need to be developed for Presidential approval and then for specific SCC/CI case approval, would be held in abeyance. Similar delay would occur with respect to developing guidelines for the maintenance of central records of FCI information. (I did not agree with respect to the last; the absence of a central repository is a fact and a problem which could be given immediately to a working group to study and recommend solutions.) ✓



✓ OPEI/HRD

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